

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Hundreds of Chairmen Named for Canned Foods Week

The field organization for the Canned Foods Week campaign is rapidly being completed. Up to September 15, local chairmen had been named for over 400 markets by the National Wholesale Grocers Association, the American Wholesale Grocers Association, and the National Food Brokers Association. In addition, over 60 sub-chairmen have been named by the local chairmen in various markets. This list of chairmen and sub-chairmen covers practically every market of importance in the United States, but does not indicate, by any means, the total number of places for which an active Canned Foods Week campaign is already assured, as most of the local chairmen report that they expect to include in their work all the towns tributary to the markets in which these chairmen are located. Additional appointments are being received daily and the field organization will this year cover many more places than in any earlier campaign.

Samples of the display materials have been furnished to all of the local chairmen, requisitions for these materials are coming in, and shipment of the supplies to the more distant points has already been made.

Canners are urged by the National Committee to get in touch with the local committees in their markets and aid them in planning and carrying on the work. If no committee has been named in the canner's home town, he is requested to write the National Committee at Washington, which will furnish him with display materials and any other assistance necessary for him to put on a real Canned Foods Week.

Revised Tomato Production Forecast

Revised acreage estimates and a revised forecast of the production of tomatoes for manufacture in 1926 have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, based on the condition as reported for September 1st.

The revised estimate places the acreage at 242,950, as compared with 342,400 acres in 1925. The yield, as indicated by condition on September 1, will be 4 tons per acre, as compared with a yield of 5.1 tons in 1925. This forecasts a production of 975,300 tons, as compared with 1,729,300 tons last year.

In its estimate issued in August, the Bureau placed the acreage at 234,250, or about 8,700 acres less than its September figure. On the other hand, the yield as based on August 1 condition was placed at 4.7 tons, and the September condition reduced the indicated yield to 4 tons. The increase in acreage is more than offset by the decrease in indicated yield, so that the September forecast of total production is 128,600 tons below the August forecast.

Canned Food Imports

As compared with July last year, the principal imports of canned foods increased, except canned peas, as shown by the following figures issued by the Department of Commerce:

	July, 1925 <i>Pounds</i>	July, 1926 <i>Pounds</i>
Canned tomatoes	1,570,849	1,779,342
Tomato paste	681,864	760,443
Canned peas	244,187	103,026
Pineapples, prepared or preserved ...	398,251	710,356
Sardines	2,321,343	2,818,315

The canned tomatoes and tomato paste came almost entirely from Italy. Imports of these products during July fell off considerably from the amounts received in June.

In connection with the domestic pack of canned tomatoes and the canned tomato imports, it is interesting to note that imports of fresh tomatoes for the seven months ending July 31 amounted to 73,386,077 pounds, as against 63,834,171 pounds for the same period a year ago.

Chemical Tests of Corn Stalks to Determine Soil Needs

The Prudue University Experiment Station has issued an illustrated bulletin of 32 pages entitled "Testing Corn Stalks Chemically to Aid in Determining Their Plant Food Needs."

"The purpose of the bulletin," as stated in the introductory note, "is to assist in interpreting the general causes of malnutrition by describing the symptoms displayed by corn plants. These

symptoms are recognized by the appearances of the leaves and stalks, and by making chemical tests of the inner tissues of the stalks. It is possible, in a few minutes, to diagnose soil deficiencies of either nitrogen or potassium. The interpretation of a phosphorus deficiency involves the results of these tests as well as the test of the soil for acidity."

The bulletin gives information as to the preparation of test solutions and their use, and furnishes a reference key to the fertilizer needs as indicated by the results of the tests.

Salmon Pack of Alaska in 1926

The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries in cooperation with the Association of Pacific Fisheries has issued an estimate of the salmon pack of 1926 up to August 25. The estimate showing a total pack of 6,307,000 cases as follows:

	Western <i>cases</i>	Central <i>cases</i>	Southeastern <i>cases</i>
Reds	1,360,000	557,000	200,000
Pinks		1,189,000	2,050,000
Chums	30,000	237,000	500,000
Cohoos	5,000	69,000	65,000
Kings	15,000	17,000	13,000
Total	1,410,000	2,069,000	2,828,000

Hearing on Japanese Beetle Quarantine

The Department of Agriculture announces that a hearing to determine whether New York and Connecticut shall be quarantined to prevent further spread of the Japanese beetle will be held at the Department in Washington, at 10 A. M., September 25.

Dairy, Food and Drug Officials to Meet.

The annual Convention of the Association of American Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, it is announced by the Department of Agriculture, will be held in Washington, D. C., October 19-22.

Wholesale Grocers to Meet at Atlantic City

The National Wholesale Grocers Association has decided to hold a mid-year meeting in Atlantic City the week of January 24, when the Annual Convention of the National Canners Association, the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association and the National Food Brokers Association will be in session.

Freight Loadings Again Break Record

A new high record for all time in the number of cars loaded with revenue freight was established during the week ended

September 4 when the total was 1,151,346 cars. This is the fifteenth week for this year that the loadings have exceeded 1,000,000 cars. From January 1 to September 4 the loadings totaled 35,850,857 cars, which is an increase of 1,153,064 cars over the corresponding period last year.

Revised Bean Standards

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued recommended United States Standards for beans, which embody slight revisions from the tentative standards issued in August, 1925. The revisions are based on the result of further studies of the bean industry and recommendations of the trade made during the past season. The changes made do not effect the general construction of the standards, and, except for more tolerant limits on grade factors in grades for Great Northerns, serve only to clarify certain important features of them.

The adoption and use of these Standards by all agencies engaged in handling beans, the Bureau states, will provide a basis for uniform grading of this commodity throughout the United States.

Effect of Paper Mulch

The California Agricultural Experiment Station has published in its journal "Hilgardia," a paper on the effect of a paper mulch on soil temperature. The purpose of the paper mulch, which is extensively used in Hawaii on pineapples and with which farmers and vegetable growers have been experimenting in California, is to modify soil temperatures, decrease losses in soil moisture by evaporation and prevent or decrease growth of weeds.

Among conclusions reached from the Experiment Station's work, as presented in the article, are:

"The covering hastened the time of warming, retarded the rate of cooling, and gave a narrower range between the maximum and minimum temperatures, with a resulting more uniform temperature condition.

"Soil moisture losses from the upper 18 inches that were sampled were reduced to an appreciable extent by the paper covering.

"Crop yields indicate that the covering is of no benefit to any of the crops grown, the figures actually indicating an adverse effect.

"While the use of the paper mulch cover may conserve the moisture to some extent, the experiments give no indication that it will favorably affect the growth of crops under such climatic conditions as exist in Berkley."